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Message Text

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41
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /031 W
---------- 089432
P 301726Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2049

S E C R E T RABAT 2415

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR MO
SUBJ: SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REFS: A. JERUSALEM 1191
B. JERUSALEM 1192
C. RUEADWW 0174 1500915 O 300915Z MAY 74

1. IN ACCORDANCE REFS A. AND B. I SAW MINISTER OF STATE BAHNINI THIS MORNING. (KING HASSAN IS TOURING PROVINCES AND FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.) CURRENTL ACTING AS FOREIGN MINISTER, BAHNINI IS A FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL CABINET AND A VERY CLOSE AND INFLUENTIAL CONFIDANT OF THE KING. HE HAS OFTEN SERVED IN THE PAST AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE KING AND EMBASSY.

2. I PRESENTED BAHNINI TEXT OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND TEXT OF PROTOCOL ON THE UNDOF, AND EXPLAINED TO HIM THE DELICATE BACKGROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. I TOLD HIM THAT AS HE WAS DOUBTLESS AWARE (HE WAS), THE LAST-MINUTE DIFFICULTIES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD CENTERED ON BORDER QUEST-TIONS. I ALSO NOTED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AND THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS IN THE RESPECT. I STRESSED THAT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT FEEL THAT IT COULD BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS POINT, AND THAT THE ISRAELIS, FOR THEIR PART, BELIEVED THEY WOULD BE COMPELLED TO REACT STRONGLY AGAINST
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FURTHER INFILTRATION. THE ISRAELI POSITION IS THAT SUCH A REACTION

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COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. I NOTED OUR VIEW THAT EVERY GOVERNMENT HAD TO TRY TO PREVENT TERRORISM, IN KEEPING S.C. RESOLUTIONS 338 AND 342. I SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THESE RESOLUTIONS, AND ADDED THAT A MISCONSTRUCTION OF THIS CONSISTNE AND UNCHANGED AMERICAN POSITION COULD GRAVELY JEOPARDIZE THE AGREEMENT. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY THAT OUR FREINDS, ESPECIALLY IN ARAB COUNTRIES, WOULD UNDERSTAND THE DELICATE BACKGROUND OF THESE EVENTS AND WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO CURB EMOTIONAL PRONOUNCEMENTS. SUCH PRONOUNCEMENTS WOULD ONLY SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THOSE INTERESTED IN DESTROYING THE CHANCE OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, AND IN RESPONSE TO A REMARK BY THE MINISTER, I REFERRED TO THE SPECULATION WHICH HAS BEEN HEARD IN SOME QUARTERS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL AGAINST FURTHER PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION. I STRESSED THAT SUCH SPECULATION WAS TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION AND WAS PROMPTED BY THOSE WHO OPPOSED THE AGREEMENT.

5. THE MINISTER SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD, AND SYMPATHIZED WITH, OUR POSITION. THE TEXTS OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL, HE SAID, WOULD BE TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY TO THE KING, ALONG WITH THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION I HAD JUST PROVIDED. THE KING WOULD HAVE THIS INFORMATION WITHIN A FEW HOURS.

6. IN COMMENTING ON THE SUSTANCE OF MY REMARKS, BAHNINI REFERRED TO THE KING'S MARCH 3 THRONE DAY SPEECH IN WHICH THE KING PLEDGED THE SUPPORT OF THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT FOR ANY AGREEMENT REACHED BY OTHER ARAB STATES. THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD CLEARLY IS IN THIS CATEGORY. A COROLLARY TO THIS IS CLEAR GOM RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO RESIST DEMAGOGUERY AND TO URGE ALL CONCERNED TO PROCEED IN A SPIRIT OF REASON AND CALM. IN COMMENTING ON RUMORS OF AMERICAN GUARANTEES AGAINST PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION, BAHNINI SAID THE MOROCCANS RECOGNIZE THAT EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES OF AN ISSUE OFTEN TEND TO FEED ON ANOTHER. PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION IS SUCH AN ISSUE, AND BAHNINI CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THE MOROCCANS WOULD COUNSEL MODERATION.
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7. BAHNINI THEN GAVE ME HIS INTERPRETATION OF CURRENT SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. HIS CONCLUSION WAS THAT THERE EXISTS A BACKGROUND (TOILE DE FOND) TO THE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD, WITHOUT ANYONE SAYING SO SPECIFICALLY, ESTABLISH AN UNSPOKEN PREMISE (SOUS ENTENDU) ON THE QUESTION OF FEDAYEEN INFILTRATION. IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM, BAHNINI SAID, THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS POINT HAD NOT CHANGED. HE RECOGNIZED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT ALL PARTIES

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TO THE AGREEMENT AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD
UNDERSTAND THE CONSISTENCY OF THE AMERICAN POSITION.

8. THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BEGIN AT ONCE ITS EFFORTS
TO FURTHER MODERATION, BNHNINI SAID. SPECIFICALLY, HE TOLD ME
THAT HE WOULD CALL INFORMATION MINISTER BENHIMA WHO, AS
FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, UNDERSTOOD THE SITUATION VERY WELL, IN
ORDER TO ASSURE THAT MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE AGREEMENT AND
ATTENDANT PUBLIC STATMENTS WOULD BE CALM AND RESPONSIBLE.
THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT, OF COURSE, CONTROL THE OPPOSITION
PRESS, HE SAID. HOWEVER, BAHNINI SAID HE WOULD ASSURE THAT
THE OUTPUT OF SEMI-OFFICIAL MOROCCAN PRESS AGENCY WAS
POSITIVE. SINCE THE OPPOSITION PRESS RELIES IN CONSIDERABLE
MEASURE ON THE PRESS AGENCY FOR ITS NEWS, THIS WOULD HELP
TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF REASONABLE COVERAGE OF THE NEWS.

9. FINALLY, MINISTER CONGRATULATED USG AND ESPECIALLY
SECRETARY FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHICH DESERVED NOT
ONLY APPLAUSE BUT SUPPORT.
NEUMANN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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